AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A pulley comprising:

a pulley body which has a rotationally symmetrical outer circumferential surface, [[and]]

a pulley hub, and [[having]]

a tire which sits on the outer circumferential surface and [[has]] which comprises:

at least one radially outer ring, [[and]]

at least one radially inner ring, and [[also]]

a reinforcing ring, the reinforcing ring being made of a material which is rigid relative to the radially inner and the radially outer rings, ~~and which~~ the reinforcing ring having a contoured cross-sectional form with a concave outer surface that engages the outer ring, and is so dimensioned and arranged as to distribute rope load substantially uniformly over the inner ring, the reinforcing ring having a diameter which is smaller than the outside diameter of the radially outer ring, the radially inner ring being made of an elastomer, the radially outer ring being made of an elastomer or a plastic, and the radially outer ring having a greater Shore hardness than the radially inner ring.

2. (Previously presented) The pulley as claimed in claim 1, wherein the pulley body has two lateral flanks, between which the outer circumferential surface of the pulley body extends, and into which the outer circumferential surface of the pulley body merges.

3. (Previously presented) The pulley as claimed in claim 2, wherein a flange disk, which projects radially outward beyond the outer circumferential surface of the pulley body, is detachably fastened to each of the lateral flanks.

4. (Previously presented) The pulley as claimed in claim 1, wherein the width of the outer circumferential surface of pulley body corresponds to the width of the radially inner and the radially outer rings.

5. (Previously presented) The pulley as claimed in claim 1, wherein the radially inner and the radially outer rings are approximately the same width.

6. (Previously presented) The pulley as claimed in claim 1, wherein the radially outer ring has an outer circumferential surface which is a surface of rotation and which is concentric to the pulley hub in the unloaded state.

7. (Previously presented) The pulley as claimed in claim 1, wherein the outer circumferential surface of the radially outer ring contains a rope groove.

8. (Currently Amended) The pulley as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reinforcing ring is embedded in one of the radially outer [[or]] and the radially inner ring.

9. (Currently Amended) The pulley as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reinforcing ring is fitted in between one of the radially outer [[or]] and the radially inner ring.

10. (Previously presented) The pulley as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reinforcing ring is a plastic molding.

11. (Previously presented) The pulley as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reinforcing ring is a sheet-metal formed part.

12. (Previously presented) The pulley as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reinforcing ring is a forging.

13. (Previously presented) The pulley as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reinforcing ring is a casting.

14. (Previously presented) The pulley as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reinforcing ring has an outer circumferential surface which is designed in such a way that the radially outer ring has an approximately constant thickness as viewed over its width.

15. (Previously presented) The pulley as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reinforcing ring has an inner circumferential surface which is designed in such a way that the radially inner ring has an approximately constant thickness as viewed over its width.

16. (Previously presented) A pulley comprising:

a pulley body which has a rotationally symmetrical outer circumferential surface and a pulley hub, and having a tire which sits on the outer circumferential surface and has at least one radially outer and one radially inner ring and also a reinforcing ring, the reinforcing ring being made of a material which is rigid relative to the radially inner and the radially outer rings, the reinforcing ring having a diameter which is smaller than the outside diameter of the radially outer ring, the radially inner ring being made of an elastomer, the radially outer ring being made of an elastomer or a plastic, and the radially outer ring having a greater Shore hardness than the radially inner ring,

wherein the reinforcing ring consists of two parts which are joined together along a radial plane and are fastened to one another.

D1 cont

17. (Previously presented) The pulley as claimed in claim 16, wherein the two parts of the reinforcing ring bear directly against one another.

18. (Previously presented) The pulley as claimed in claim 16, wherein the two parts of the reinforcing ring are connected to one another while forming at least one axial intermediate space.

19. (Currently amended) The pulley as claimed in claim [[1]] 2, wherein the reinforcing ring contains blind openings which lead from the lateral [[flank]] flanks into the reinforcing ring.

20. (Currently amended) The pulley as claimed in claim [[1]] 2, wherein the reinforcing ring contains slots which run in the circumferential direction and lead from the lateral [[flank]] flanks into the reinforcing ring.

21. (Previously presented) The pulley as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of the radially outer or the radially inner ring is connected to the reinforcing ring in a positive-locking manner.

22. (Currently amended) The pulley as claimed in claim 1, wherein the radially inner ring is recessed at its lateral flanks at least in sections relative to [[the]] surfaces defined by the lateral [[flank]] flanks of the pulley body.

23. (Previously presented) The pulley as claimed in claim 1, wherein the radially inner ring contains a plurality of through-openings, which run in the axial direction and are distributed equidistantly along the circumference.

24. (Previously presented) The pulley as claimed in claim 1, wherein the radially inner ring has little internal damping.

25. (Currently amended) The pulley as claimed in claim 3, wherein a distance between each lateral flank of the radially outer ring is equal to a clearance ~~distance~~ between each flange disk ~~at this location~~.

26. (Previously presented) The pulley as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least the radially inner ring contains a textile reinforcement in the vicinity of its inner circumferential surface.

27. (Previously presented) The pulley as claimed in claim 1, wherein a clamping device is assigned to the tire, by means of which clamping device the tire can be radially pretensioned on the outer circumferential surface of the pulley body.

28. (Previously presented) The pulley as claimed in claim 27, wherein the clamping device has an annular, essentially rotationally symmetrical form with a radially inner and a radially outer surface.

29. (Previously presented) The pulley as claimed in claim 27, wherein the clamping device, relative to the radial direction, is fitted in between the radially inner ring and the outer circumferential surface of the pulley body.

30. (Previously presented) The pulley as claimed in claim 27, wherein the clamping device, relative to the radial direction, is fitted in between the radially inner ring and the reinforcing ring.

31. (Previously presented) The pulley as claimed in claim 27, wherein the clamping device, relative to the axial direction of the pulley body, is split into two annular parts.

32. (Previously presented) The pulley as claimed in claim 30, wherein the radially inner ring, relative to the axial direction of the pulley body, is split into two parts, and in that in each case one part of the radially inner ring sits on the corresponding part of the clamping device.

D1 cont

33. (Previously presented) The pulley as claimed in claim 27, wherein the clamping device bears an elastomeric coating on its radially inner surface, said elastomeric coating being cohesively connected to the clamping device.

34. (Previously presented) The pulley as claimed in claim 33, wherein the elastomeric coating is made of the same material as the radially inner ring.

35. (Currently amended) The pulley as claimed in claim 31, wherein each annular part of the clamping device has a frustoconical outer form and a frustoconical bore, the radial thickness at one axial end of each annular part being smaller than at the other axial end, and in that a ring is obtained in [[the]] an assembled state, which ring, relative to its axial extent, is constricted approximately in the center.

36. (Previously presented) The pulley as claimed in claim 31, wherein the two annular parts are screwed together by means of screws.

37. (Previously presented) The pulley as claimed in claim 1, wherein the outer circumferential surface of the pulley body forms a double cone, which has the largest diameter at the intersection between the two cones.

38. (Previously presented) The pulley as claimed in claim 1, wherein the outer circumferential surface of the pulley body forms a cylindrical surface.

39 (Previously presented) The pulley as claimed in claim 10, wherein the reinforcing ring is fiber-reinforced.

40. (Previously presented) A pulley as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reinforcing ring has a non-uniform cross-section and is thicker at the sides than in the middle.

Cl cont

41. (Previously presented) A pulley as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reinforcing ring has an indented cross-sectional shape.

42. (Previously presented) A pulley comprising:

a pulley body which has an outer circumferential surface; and

a tire which is disposed on the outer circumferential surface and which comprises:

an outer ring;

a separate inner ring; and

a reinforcing ring interposed between the outer ring and the inner ring, the reinforcing ring being made of a material which is rigid relative to the radially inner and the radially outer rings and which has at least one portion which is at least as thick as the radially outer ring, the radially inner ring being made of a first material, the radially outer ring being made of a second material having a greater Shore hardness than the material of the radially inner ring.

43. (Previously presented) A pulley as claimed in claim 42, wherein the reinforcing ring has a non-uniform cross-section and is thicker at the sides than in the middle.

44. (Previously presented) A pulley as claimed in claim 42, wherein the reinforcing ring has an indented cross-sectional profile.

45. (New) A pulley as claimed in claim 1, wherein the radially outer ring is adapted to have a rope run thereover and apply rope load thereto, and wherein the reinforcing ring has a structural rigidity sufficient to effectively attenuate rope load induced flexure thereof and thus prevent local deformation of the radially inner ring.

46. (New) A pulley comprising:

a pulley body which has a rotationally symmetrical outer circumferential surface,

a pulley hub, and

a tire which sits on the outer circumferential surface and which comprises:

a radially outer ring adapted to have a rope run thereover,

a radially inner ring which is softer than the radially outer ring, and

a reinforcing ring disposed between the radially outer ring and the radially inner ring, said reinforcing ring (a) comprising a degree of rigidity and (b) having a three-dimensional cross-sectional form and/or a thickness, the combination of (a) and (b) being sufficient to distribute rope load substantially uniformly over the radially inner ring to essentially prevent local deformation of the radially inner ring due to rope load induced flexure of the reinforcing ring.

47. (New) A pulley comprising:

a pulley body which has a rotationally symmetrical outer circumferential surface,

a pulley hub, and

a tire which sits on the outer circumferential surface and which comprises:

a radially outer ring adapted to have a rope run thereover,

a radially inner ring which is softer than the radially outer ring, and

a reinforcing ring means, comprising a reinforcing ring made of a rigid material and having a three dimensional cross-sectional form of sufficient radial thickness and being disposed between the radially outer ring and the radially inner ring, for distributing rope load substantially uniformly over the inner ring and for distributing deformation over the circumferential length of the radially inner ring sufficiently to essentially prevent local deformation of the radially inner ring due to rope load induced flexure of the reinforcing ring.